

Message Text

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APPROVED BY AF:AMB. SCHAUFLE

AF/C:RFANDREW

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY FREETOWN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 302696

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AL, SL, US, UR

SUBJECT: SIERRA LEONE POLICY ON ANGOLA

REF: FREETOWN 3115

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFLE

1. WE HAVE REPORTS FROM SEVERAL SOURCES THAT PRESIDENT STEVENS' POSITION ON ANGOLA MAY BE WAVERING. TO HALT THIS APPARENT EROSION IN HIS NON-ALIGNED STANCE, YOU SHOULD SEEK AN EARLY MEETING DURING WHICH THE FOLLOWING POINTS SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED.

2. SOVIET MILITARY INTERVENTION HAS TRANSFORMED THE CHARACTER OF THE ANGOLAN POWER STRUGGLE. IN RESPONSE TO THIS MASSIVE FOREIGN INTRUSION IN AFRICA THE US HAS PROVIDED MATERIAL ASSISTANCE TO FNLA/UNITA. THE US COULD NOT ALLOW THE SOVIETS TO INTERVENE UNCHALLENGED IN THIS SITUATION. THE UNFORTUNATE OUTCOME OF THIS SOVIET INTER-

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VENTION HAS BEEN AN ESCALATION OF THE FIGHTING AND GREATER

LOSS OF AFRICAN LIVES.

3. THE US OPPOSES SOVIET INTERVENTION (AND THAT OF THEIR CUBAN ALLIES), NOT A ROLE FOR THE MPLA IN THE FUTURE OF

ANGOLA. THE US INTENDS TO CONTINUE TO OPPOSE SOVIET INTERVENTION.

4. ANGOLA'S FUTURE STABILITY WILL REQUIRE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE FACTIONS PRESENTLY FIGHTING FOR POWER. AN EARLY END TO THE FIGHTING NOT ONLY WOULD SAVE LIVES BUT WOULD MAKE POSSIBLE THE PROCESS OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION. IT IS THE MPLA WHICH HAS REFUSED TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE FNLA AND UNITA. THIS NEGATIVE ATTITUDE WILL BE REINFORCED, AND PROSPECTS FOR EARLY RECONCILIATION DIMINISHED, IF OTHER AFRICAN STATES, IN RECOGNIZING THE MPLA AS THE GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA, ENCOURAGE MPLA LEADERS IN THEIR MISTAKEN BELIEF THAT THEY CAN ACCOMPLISH THEIR OBJECTIVES BY FORCE OF ARMS.

5. IT HAS BEEN THE CONSISTENT POSITION OF THE US GOVERNMENT THAT AN AFRICAN SOLUTION SHOULD BE FOUND TO THIS PROBLEM. THE US HAS WELCOMED THE INITIATIVES TAKEN BY THE OAU TO SEEK A CEASE-FIRE AND NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. IN THE INTEREST OF PEACE ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT, THE US HOPES THE GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE OAU.

6. HIGHLIGHTS SECRETARY'S DECEMBER 23 PRESS CONFERENCE, BEING REPORTED SEPTEL, MAY ALSO BE USEFUL IN MAKING THIS DEMARCHE. KISSINGER

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